



## *Commentary on the Keynote Address: Introduction of the Presenters*

KAREN DAVIS, PhD, AND TIMOTHY JOHNSON, MD\*

### **Karen Davis**

Professor Reinhardt has the ability, rather unique among academicians, of being able to entertain as he informs. His presentation at the symposium was entertaining and informative. We were fortunate, therefore, that the person who chaired the panel that followed Professor Reinhardt's presentation is no stranger to the worlds of news and entertainment.

Dr. Timothy Johnson is a man of many talents. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he achieved the honor of Phi Beta Kappa. He then pursued and achieved a divinity degree from North Park Seminary before going to medical school at Albany Medical College, where he was president of the student council and was graduated summa cum laude. He subsequently achieved a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Johnson has done many things in his career. He was founding editor of the Harvard Medical School *Health Letter*. He has been an assistant minister for the Community Covenant Church of West Peabody, Massachusetts, and serves most prominently as medical editor of ABC News, where his responsibilities include *World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, *20-20*, and, in the entertainment branch of ABC, *Good Morning America*.

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\* Dr. Davis is President of the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Johnson is medical correspondent for ABC News.

**Timothy Johnson, MD**

I was delighted to attend the second annual Margaret E. Mahoney symposium and to watch Professor Reinhardt stir the waters as he always does. He has been a great personal inspiration to me over the years, as I've thought about the whole issue of health care.

Health-care reform is an especially meaningful issue for me. For the first and only time in my medical journalism career, which began in 1984, I got caught up in the excitement about health-care reform, including the Clinton proposal, in the early part of this decade. When the reform effort fell apart, I went into what could only honestly be described as a state of personal depression about the matter. It has been very difficult for me to get back into it. I continue to love clinical medicine, but only recently have I been even willing to start to think about the possibility of health-care reform again in this country. The Mahoney Symposium was, therefore, an opportunity to get personally recharged and refueled about the issue.

Professor Reinhardt's presentation was an excellent way to recharge. It was followed by four commentaries, each of which touched on some aspect of the keynote address.

The first presentation was offered by Dr. John Stobo, who received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth and his medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He came to Johns Hopkins as an immunologist and later returned there to become the William Osler Professor of Medicine and Physician in Chief. In 1994 became Chairman and CEO of Johns Hopkins Health Care.

Following Dr. Stobo's presentation was that of Dr. Michael Stocker, who is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received his MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is Board certified in both internal medicine and family practice, and holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan. He was associate chairman of the Department of Family Practice at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, and in 1985 joined US Healthcare as vice president and medical director for the

Greater New York market. Eventually he became president of Cigna, and in November 1994 joined Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield as its president and CEO.

Dr. Barbara DeBuono received her undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Rochester and her public health degree from Harvard. She has practiced in infectious disease, became Director of Health for the State of Rhode Island, and now is Commissioner of Health for the State of New York, an office to which she was appointed in January 1995.

The remaining member of the panel was Mr. Thomas Chapman, who has a master's degree in public health from Yale, was affiliated for a few years with Arthur D. Little, and became president of Providence Hospital in 1978. In 1993, Mr. Chapman became CEO of George Washington University Hospital and Senior Associate Vice President for Network Development at George Washington University Medical Center.

Each of the presenters made a few prepared remarks. I also asked each of them to react to the keynote address by considering the following question: Are you as pessimistic as Professor Reinhardt is? Do you think that the battle is over, that we have lost the chance for universal coverage in this country, and that we are stuck for the foreseeable future with a three-tier system?